

REMARKS

Claims 1-112 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 13, 21, 22, 31, 34, 40, 41, 60, 61, 70, 79-81, 89, 91-96, 98 and 108-112 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and rejected Claims 21-22 and 60-61 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Examiner objected to Claims 4-12, 14-20, 23-30, 32, 33, 42-59, 62-69, 71-78, 82-88, 90, 97 and 99-107 but indicated that the prior art that the Examiner searched failed to disclose the limitations of those claims. Independent Claims 1, 31, 40, 70, 79, 91-96, and 108-112 have been amended in the foregoing amendment.

**Claims 1-3, 13, 21, 22, 31, 34, 40, 41, 60, 61, 70,
79-81, 89, 91-96, 98 and 108-112 Are Not Anticipated by Aziz**

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 13, 21-22, 31, 34, 40-41, 60-61, 70, 79-81, 89, 91-96, 98, 108-112 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,548,646 to Aziz et al. ("*Aziz*"). The Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1, 40, 79, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 108, 109, 111 and 112

The Applicants submit that the Examiner is interpreting the claimed personalized access ticket too broadly to make it read on the encapsulation header of a data packet described in *Aziz* which contains source and destination addresses.

In the foregoing amendment, the Applicants have clarified that the claimed personalized access ticket is not only the information that contains a sender's identification and a recipient's identification in correspondence but also the information that indicates an access right specifically for the purpose of the email access control, such that the secure communication service can verify the access right of the sender with respect to the recipient, according to the personalized access ticket, for the purpose of controlling the accesses between the sender and the recipient.

As shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 8 of the present specification, the personalized access ticket is not a data packet for conveying email message text. Rather, it is a ticket to be used

in controlling accesses which is personalized to each user in a sense that a user who has a valid ticket is allowed to make an access.

In contrast, the encapsulation header of the data packet of *Aziz* fails to indicate anything like an access right or a personalized access ticket. Thus, *Aziz* completely fails to disclose the access control based on such an access right or a personalized access ticket.

Moreover, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, *Aziz*'s tunneling bridge is not equivalent to the claimed secure communication service, because *Aziz*'s tunneling bridge is simply encrypting or decrypting the data packet and it does not have any function for verifying an access right of the sender with respect to the recipient or controlling accesses between the sender and the recipient. In fact, in col. 7, lines 55-65, *Aziz* merely describes the use of predetermined criteria to determine whether or not to encrypt a given data packet, which has nothing to do with the access right or the access control. Also, in col. 8, lines 4-13, *Aziz* merely describes that the packet has the original host IP addresses of the source and destination hosts, which also has nothing to do with the access right or the access control.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 40, 79, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 108, 109, 111 and 112 are not anticipated by *Aziz*.

Claims 31, 70, 93 and 110

The Applicants are uncertain as to which elements of *Aziz* are interpreted as corresponding to the claimed official identification and anonymous identification, because all the portions quoted by the Examiner fail to describe any anonymous identification which contains a fragment of the official identification as required by independent Claims 31, 70, 93 and 110.

In the foregoing amendment, the Applicants have clarified the claimed anonymous identification being such that each user cannot be personally identified by the anonymous identification. The invention of Claims 31, 70, 93 and 110 is characterized by using such an anonymous identification for identifying each user in communications for emails on a communication network, rather than the usual user identification by which each user can be personally identified.

In contrast, *Aziz* completely fails to disclose any teaching directed to such an anonymous identification and its use for email communications.

Thus, Claims 31, 70, 93 and 110 are not anticipated by *Aziz*.

Claims 2-3, 13, 21-22, 34, 41, 60-61, 70, 80-81, 89 and 98

Claims 2-3, 13, 21-22, 34, 41, 60-61, 70, 80-81, 89 and 98 depend on either one of independent Claims 1, 31, 40, 79 and 96. The remarks made above in support of the patentability of the independent claims are equally applicable to distinguish the dependent claims from *Aziz*.

Claims 14, 18, 34, 89 and 98

At paragraph No. 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated Claims 14 and 18 in asserting the reasons of rejection. However, the Applicants submit that the Examiner indicated at paragraph No. 19 on page 5 of the Office Action that the prior art that the Examiner searched failed to disclose the limitations of those claims.

Further, Claim 89 claims a secure communication service device which corresponds to Claim 20 which the Examiner indicated that the prior art that the Examiner searched failed to disclose the limitations of that claim. Thus, the Applicants submit that the inclusion of Claim 89 at paragraph No. 6 on page 3 of the Office Action should be incorrect.

Claim 34 contains all the features recited in Claim 14 which the Examiner indicated that the prior art that the Examiner searched failed to disclose the limitations of that claim. Thus, the Applicants submit that the indication of Claim 34 at paragraph No. 8 on page 3 of the Office Action should be incorrect.

Claim 98 depends from Claim 97 which the Examiner indicated that the prior art that the Examiner searched failed to disclose the limitations of that claim. The Applicants submit that the rejection of Claim 98 should be incorrect.

Claims 35-39

The Examiner failed to address Claims 35-39. Since the Examiner did not indicate any reasons for rejecting those claims, the Applicants assumes that the prior art that the Examiner searched also failed to disclose the limitations of Claims 35-39.

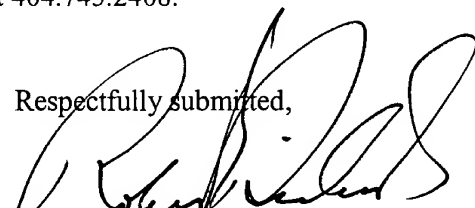
Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicants re-submits PTO/SB/08 filed on March 26, 1999 because the publication number of one of the references cited, namely JP8-293,883, was incorrectly shown as JP8-293,881, while the references enclosed were correct. The Applicants ask the Examiner to return the PTO/SB/08 indicating that the Examiner has considered the cited information.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the Applicant solicits a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.745.2408.

Respectfully submitted,



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